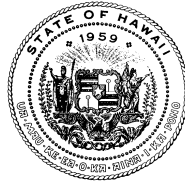


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO  
PSM MANAGER

BRUCE ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831  
eoa@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0467**  
**Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS  
REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
PSM Manager, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 6, 2019  
9:15 am

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
- 3 within the Administration's base budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$2,000,000 in FY2020 and \$2,000,000 in
- 5 FY2021 for the Kupuna Caregivers Program and amends the requirement of providing up to a
- 6 maximum of \$70 per day to \$350 per week.
- 7 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the current appropriation for the Kupuna Caregivers
- 8 Program is \$1.2M. This bill adds \$800,000 to the current appropriation for the program for a
- 9 total of \$2M per year. Governor Ige's budget request maintains a total base budget of \$1.2
- 10 million from SFY2019 through SFY2021.

1 This program is a priority of Governor Ige's administration and we appreciate the additional  
2 funding above the current budget request provided that the addition does not reduce or replace  
3 priorities in the Administration's executive biennium budget.

4 Since enactment in 2017, EOA established the program guidelines, created public information  
5 sheets, developed a caregiver's employment verification process, adopted a caregiver burden  
6 assessment tool to prioritize applicants and measure program effectiveness, and executed  
7 contracts with the four area agencies on aging (AAAs). All planning and implementation work  
8 was completed by existing EOA staff, and the Kupuna Caregivers Program (KCGP) was  
9 officially launched on December 13, 2017. None of the \$600,000 appropriated during the first  
10 six month of the project in SFY2018 was used to cover any administrative costs but was used  
11 predominately to provide a full day of Adult Day Care (ADC) services to the care recipients of  
12 101 caregivers which allowed caregivers the ability to work a full day at the cost of  
13 approximately \$70 a day. For SFY2019, the Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million which will  
14 only maintain the services for the initial 101 caregivers for one year. Additional funding would  
15 be needed to expand the Kupuna Caregiver program to maintain gainful employment based on  
16 the assessed needs of caregivers. In addition, the current language for the Kupuna Caregivers  
17 Program Statute, HRS 349-18, specifies a maximum amount of \$70 a day for services which  
18 limits the number of individuals who received Kupuna Caregiver services. By changing the  
19 language to a weekly amount, it allows for program flexibility in the use of the funds to address  
20 the needs of the caregivers.

- 1 **Recommendation:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a part of the Administration's base
- 2 budget request. We support advancing this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce
- 3 or replace priorities with the Administration's base budget.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 6:03:36 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Health:

I am Gary Simon, Chairperson of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

***PABEA wholeheartedly supports HB 467.***

Changing the Kupuna Caregivers Program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week provides the Area Agencies on Aging more flexibility in using the funds to meet the needs of working family caregivers and their care recipients.

Funding for the Kupuna Caregiver Program protects working caregivers who are struggling to remain employed while providing caregiving services for frail or elderly family members. Without this funding, eligible working caregivers can lose income and their employment.

We urge you to support HB 467 and to recommend its passage.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

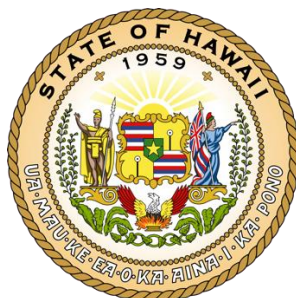
Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Chairperson, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)







Testimony on behalf of the  
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women  
**Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director**

Prepared for the S. Cmtee. on CPH

In Support of SB1025  
Friday, February 1, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women wishes to mahalo you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB1025, which would appropriate funds for the kupuna caregivers program.

More seniors in Hawai'i live past the age of 65 compared to anywhere else in the United States. Women over 65 and older are much more likely to be poor than men, regardless of race, educational background, and marital status. Thus, women face greater financial pressure to rely on friends and family care as they age. The soaring demand for affordable or free caregiving is predominantly met by women, who do not have the basic supports to allow them to take care of their families while they work. The value of the informal care that women in the United States provide ranges from \$148 billion to \$188 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> The quiet heroism of unpaid women caregivers alone cannot be the primary countervailing factor to our caregiving crisis.

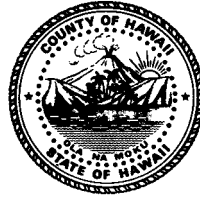
An ethic of care should be funded and normalized into Hawai'i's economic plan. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1025.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

---

<sup>1</sup> Family Caregiver Alliance, *Women and Caregiving: Facts and Figures*, 2003, <https://www.caregiver.org/women-and-caregiving-facts-and-figures>.



# County of Hawai'i

## OFFICE OF AGING

Aging and Disability Resource Center, 1055 Kino'ole Street, Suite 101, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3872  
Phone (808) 961-8600 • Fax (808) 961-8603 • Email: hcoa@hawaiiintel.net  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4390 • Fax (808) 323-4398

Testimony in **SUPPORT** to HB 465, 466, and 467 Relating to Aging

### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

#### HB 465

Status

EOA-T/PABEA-T

#### RELATING TO AGING.

Makes an appropriation to the department of health to provide full funding for the kupuna care program.

#### HB 466

Status

EOA-T/PABEA-T

#### MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER.

Appropriates funds to the department of health for the aging and disability resource center.

#### HB 467

Status

EOA-T/PABEA-T

#### RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM.

Changes the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. Appropriates funds for implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

**Testimony:** C. Kimo Alameda, **Hawaii County Office of Aging (HCOA)** Executive

**Hearing Date:** February 6, 2019 – 9:15am.

**Room Number:** 329

**HCOA's Position:** The Hawaii County Executive Office of Aging is in support of all three bills.



**Fiscal Implications:**

-HB 465 **Kupuna Care Program** appropriates, out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii, the sum of \$9 million which is then put into a weighted formula to **Hawaii County of approximately 1.2 million per year.**

-HB 466 **ADRC Program** appropriates, out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii, the sum of \$3,100,000 which is then put into a weighted formula to **Hawaii County of approximately \$500,000 per year.**

-HB 467 **Kupuna Caregiver Program** appropriates, out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii, the sum of \$2,000,000 which is then put into a weighted formula to **Hawaii County of approximately \$125,000 per year.** HCOA agrees with the modification of line 5 with \$350 per week instead of \$70 per day. HCOA would also like to suggest a modification to line 14 to include the word **'and'**/or because in Hawaii County respite for caregivers are more than providing the care recipient with a single service. For example, a care recipient might get homemaker services on Tuesday and personal care services on Wednesday of the same week.

Hawaii County has several different approaches towards achieving the same goals as the rest of the state when it comes to caring for Kupuna. One approach is to invest in the county's RSVP program which helps seniors find "purpose", and much of these kupuna are caregivers so their volunteerism also serves as their respite making it a "win-win". Hawaii County has over 1,000 seniors in the RSVP program, 3 times more than Oahu.

Second, HCOA looks at Kupuna Care services as a "short-term" (6-12 months) service in which caregivers are told at intake that although services are based on need, caregivers are encouraged to establish their informal support networks while learning self-care strategies, increasing their caregiving knowledge, applying for Medicaid if eligible, and increasing their knowledge of other private, public, and community resources to further support the long-term needs of kupuna. This is how we've been able to stretch the KC dollar.

However, with the growing population of kupuna and the added State contractual expectations of assessments, data entry, and "no wrong door" mandates, HCOA will be in need of increased funding to the requested amount above in 2022. Until then, we can manage with the funding stated in these bills.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.





**Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest Senior Advocacy Group. **Kokua Council** advocates, informs, and educates to improve laws, policies and practices impacting the well being of seniors, their families and our community.

**TESTIMONY**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS AND COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2019 9:15 AM RM 329**

**RE: HB 467 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

**KOKUA COUNCIL SUPPORTS THIS BILL, THE APPROPRIATION, AND THE WEEKLY INCREASE ALLOWED FOR ONE CAREGIVER**

**Recent data suggest the program is working as expected. According to the Elderly Affairs Division:**

**The average age of caregivers who receive services under the program was 59.**

**The Average Age of the elders they care for was 88 (older than the average in Kupuna Care)**

**The average number of ADLs was 4**

**The average number of IADLs was 7.**

**This suggests that the needs and frailty of the elders requires a lot more than \$70 once a week!!!**

**We are dealing with ages and frailties that require the highest degree of quality protection. There will be a higher demand for the program as word gets out that unannounced inspections of care homes may be abandoned. There is growing anxiety in the senior community.**

**PLEASE FIND BELOW A SHORT REPORT AND UPDATE ON THIS PROGRAM**

**Kokua Council appreciated the leadership of these Committees and look forward to finding ways to secure funding and quality protections.**

**Sincerely  
Jim Shon, President**

**SPECIAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS  
PROGRAM**

**(Based on information generated by the January 28, 2019 Kokua Council  
Summit on Kupuna Caregivers)**

On January 28, 2019, the Executive Office on Aging, the City and County's Elderly Affairs Division, and Caring Across Generations reviewed what we know about the program, and how to promote and improve it.

**2017 ACT 102**

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2017/bills/HB607\\_CD1\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2017/bills/HB607_CD1_.htm)

**FUNDING: Distress Among the Providers and the Vulnerable.** Although the informal Kupuna Caucus has recommended \$2 million to fund the program, the Governor's budget did not reflect this, and the Chair of House Finance has questioned the effectiveness of the program and completely de-funded it in the Budget Bill: HB 2 HD1.

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/HB2\\_HD1\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/HB2_HD1_.HTM)

As a result, community providers of services to the vulnerable and their clients are filled with great concern, panic and stress. Providers who could be spending more time serving clients now must spend more hours at the Legislature trying to "save" the program. Employees hired by providers to implement the program find their jobs at risk. Intended or not, some proposals demonstrate an indifference as to the impacts that target the most vulnerable. HB 2 is similar to a government shutdown: Provider employees don't know whether they need to seek another job.

Last year the funding was \$600,000. (To put this into perspective, \$600K would, under our expensive procurement code, air condition just six DOE classrooms. An appropriation of \$2 million for Kupuna Caregivers, would air condition just 20 classrooms.)

**STATEWIDE STATISTICS:** As of December 2018, last year's funding of \$600,000 served 110 caregivers, or 112 clients. This is broken down by county:

Hawaii: 11 caregivers/ 11 clients;

Kauai: 8/8;  
Maui: 22/23; and  
Honolulu: 71/68.

**TYPE OF SERVICES:** For the State: there were:

Adult Day Care: 104;  
Home Delivered Meals: 1;  
Personal Care: 15;  
In-Home Respite 3;  
Homemaker: 4;  
Chore: 1; and  
Assisted Transportation: 2.

One reason for the preference for Adult Day Care is that the limit of \$70 per day corresponds more closely with receiving day-long adult day care, and conversely, other services, charging by the hour, are more expensive. On Oahu, there are eleven (11) providers of Adult Day Care at twelve sites.

#### **CHALLENGES**

- **No administrative support is funded, imposing more tasks on ADRC staff who are already busy implementing other Kupuna Care programs.**
- **Early premature promotion of the program without adequate public education led to a surge of interest and demand well before the program could begin, and well beyond its funding capacity.**
- **Late arrival of State guidelines and funds meant some ADRCs only had five months to implement the program.**
- **No ability to use family income and other supports to determine priorities.**
- **There are some federal guidelines that inhibit flexibility in crafting some ADRC programs. Thus, even though ACT 102 funds are all state money, when other programs are also accessed, this complicates the process.**
- **Overlap with other Kupuna Care services that are free.**
- **Caregiving is not always provided by just one working caregiver; thus, the assumed model may be too one-dimensional to take into account multiple support networks.**

- **No ideal profile of the age or status of a caregiver has been developed to assist ADRCs to identify priority clients for the limited funds.**
- **It is not completely clear which EOA program “guidelines” are hard wired to provisions of the law, and which are internal agency decisions. Suggestions to change some aspects of the program may or may not require legislative action.**
- **ACT 102 says until EOA adopts administrative rules for ACT 102, the rules for Kupuna Care can be guides – however there are no administrative rules yet for Kupuna Care.**
- **Public skepticism of legislators, including attempts to restrict funding to one client to \$70 a week undercuts the effectiveness of the program. No provider believes \$70 a week will be enough incentive to keep a caregiver in the workforce.**

### **Top Five Kokua Council Priorities for 2019**

1. **Funding, structure, and implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Law.**
2. **More funds to serve more seniors** in other programs: Kupuna Care, ADRCs, etc.
3. **Less bureaucracy and timely payments** for vendors delivering Kupuna services.
4. **Condo legal and financial protections** for low income, vulnerable senior residents.
5. **Greater transparency and collaboration** in legislating, designing, and implementing policies, programs and practices impacting seniors & their families.

*To Contact Kokua Council, send emails to Jim Shon, President:  
jshon@hawaii.edu.*





Testimony of Church of the Crossroads  
Supporting HB 467  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
House Committee on Health  
February 6, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. in Conference Room 329

*The Church of the Crossroads was founded in 1922 and is Hawaii's first intentionally multicultural church.*

The Church of the Crossroads supports the bill. The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017 and is an important step in creating needed supports to family caregivers. By 2020, nearly 300,000 people in Hawaii will be 65 years of age or older, and the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities continues to increase.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce and their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families as well as to assure that they will have sufficient Social Security benefits and savings to support themselves in retirement.

Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family member. The program offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services, up to \$70 per day for 5 days a week. Elder persons needing assistance with at least 2 activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

Within a few weeks of the launch of the program, more than 500 persons inquired about it. The program's relatively small budget, however, limited the services to a relatively small number of clients. The current level of funding, unfortunately, is still woefully inadequate to serve the existing need.

Legislators, as well as persons in the community, have expressed a strong desire to expand the number of persons being served. The proposed increase to \$2 million per year will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers.

For the foregoing reasons the Church of the Crossroads supports the bill and urges the committee to pass it.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: February 6, 2019, 9:15 am, CR 329**

Thank you for hearing **House Bill 467**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers will receive the support that they need to help keep kupuna safe at home and their family stress level from becoming unmanageable.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is very high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$350 per week, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a revised level of funding per family that ensures working families have access to resources to provide care at home and so that the Executive Office on Aging can negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Kupuna and caregivers are both at-risk for mental health issues due to aging and high levels of stress. The Kupuna Caregivers program supports the mental health of our working and caregiving families.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 467**. Please contact me at [trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org) or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:15:18 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Yurie Takishima-Lacasa	Hawai'i Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:



**CGPTA**  
**Chinatown Gateway Plaza**  
**Tenant Association**  
**Since 2006**

**To: Committees on Human Services & Homelessness (HSH) and Health (HLT)**

**From: Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)**

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:15 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol, 415 Beretania St.

**Re: Strong Support for HB467**, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Aloha e Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the HSH and HLT Committees,

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm a resident of Chinatown Gateway Plaza (CGP) and chair of the CGP Tenant Association (CGPTA). CGP is a 200-unit, city-owned, affordable housing property in Chinatown. Residents organized the CGPTA in 2006 to keep ourselves informed and engaged in matters of concern to our community. On behalf of the CGPTA, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in **Strong Support of HB467**.

If you are like me, then you have seen kupuna in your family and community grow old and in need of care. I stand in awe of caregivers who devote themselves to care for our elders when the time comes. Perhaps you have been, are, or will be one of these people?

If your family shares this experience, then you know that kupuna caregivers need our help to sustain this demanding role. How can we possibly justify not helping? Please, generously fund Kupuna Caregivers. Let's have no regrets when our turn comes to need this care!

Please, for the sake of our kupuna, fund Kupuna Caregivers. Thank you!

Aloha no,  
Steve Lohse, Chair  
Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)  
[CGP.Tenant.Association@gmail.com](mailto:CGP.Tenant.Association@gmail.com)



**Evelyn Hao**  
President

**Chair Joy San Buenaventura**  
**Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura**  
**House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Rev. Won-Seok Yuh**  
Vice President-  
Clergy

**Chair John Mizuno**  
**Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi**  
**House Committee on Health**

**William Bekemeier**  
Vice President-  
Laity

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**Jon Davidann**  
Treasurer

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

**Deanna Espinas**  
Secretary

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

**Christy MacPherson**  
Executive  
Director

My name is Evelyn Aczon Hao and I am the President of Faith Action for Community Equity. Faith Action (formerly known as FACE) has been working on long-term care issues since 1996. As an organization that really pushed for the passage of the Kupuna Caregivers Program, we strongly SUPPORT House Bill 467. Continued funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program is critical if we are to address the needs of our kupuna and their caregivers.

**Soo San Schake**  
Organizing  
Assistant

The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a

week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Aczon Hao  
President  
Faith Action for Community Equity

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Marcie Saquing <msaquing@hawaiiislandadultcare.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 2:10 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Marcie Saquing and I am the Executive Director for Hawaii Island Adult Care in Hilo. We are the largest adult day care center in the State and licensed to serve up to 105 kupuna on a daily basis. We currently have 140 kupuna enrolled in our program and serve an average of 65-72 kupuna a day. We have seen our enrollment applications to attend adult day care jump 200% in the last month. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care. Studies also show that caregivers need to care for themselves in order to be better caregivers. Knowing that while they are at work, their loved one is safe and cared for in an adult day care setting affords that peace of mind.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marcie Saquing, Executive Director

PLEASE READ THE BODY OF THIS EMAIL AS I HAVE ADDED SOME CRITICAL INFORMATION

msaquing@hawaiiislandadulthoodcare.org Hilo, HI 96720 <<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GROry3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcV6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNSMC3zIPMYzS7kBqSz2PTnsmQEimYOcMONj-2FitlIDjpXPAfhmnYNz0ZKx-2F0M-2F1-2FESmmsFPbRF2BVPXHY62MRqTwSz7mTxWhJMEZE-2BxRkNFONO708amvTYwnn4IDi6Q8Aba15IxihgC9yxHv149kAuNMv1z2UesrEaXDmDkHKQan7lBjq3wmrrNoJlxGjxdtlw3pidpSxvdq2MxvWfXlbrDWC6ZcRwa6sH6VySHPx2MQjdCtNkO-2F7N7Uygm2AfQubOTk4AUJG8w2w7rmp57gT3QAC3R-2Bc-2Fon8NyvZu3h5qWG-2FrbP62x2bkPqYEoCe1P2vLU8sZB7ePj7FvafL5SmCosUZvpaqElhEvxA5FqXzhNY0QvjRzpVM-2Bh3OOwyaJArktiL5BV>>



**Chair Joy San Buenaventura**  
**Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura**  
**House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Chair John Mizuno**  
**Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi**  
**House Committee on Health**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is *Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian* and I reside in Keaau on Hawaii Island. Today I write in support of HB 467 relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the much needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the community infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

As the Business Manager for Hawaii Island Adult Care, Inc., the largest adult day center in the state, I know all too well the emotional and financial tensions many caregivers face when a loved one needs respite and support services. We are licensed to serve up to 105 kupuna six days a week. We currently have 140 enrolled in our program and serve an average of 65+ kupuna per day. We have seen our applications to attend day care jump 200% just in the last month. Every week, I have conversations with caregivers who struggle to meet the overwhelming needs of their spouse or parent. Many of these caregivers work full time jobs, and care for their family member on nights and weekends. It is heartbreaking to hear their stories, as I am the one who calls upon them when they cannot meet their financial commitments to our nonprofit organization. How do you choose between care for your loved one vs. working for your own benefits and financial stability?

Family caregivers are not just an unpaid workforce; they are instrumental in upholding our culture of taking care of our 'ohana at all costs - literally. The way we treat our kupuna says a lot about who we are as individuals, as a family and as a community. Many of the kupuna we see each day were nurses, social workers, lawyers, teachers, small business owners, mothers and fathers, volunteers and board members of nonprofit organizations who gave to our island community throughout their lives. It is crucial that we make it easier for kupuna to live out their days with dignity and independence despite becoming frail, mentally and/or physically challenged as well as alleviate burdens, especially financial, from the family members who take care of them.

The Executive Office on Aging reports that they received thousands of calls when the Kupuna Care program was first launched. We know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not yet eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. This gap group is often at personal financial risk, and at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great.

This reduces the caregiver's income earning power and threatens their own social security benefits and insurance coverage. This is a very dangerous and slippery slope.

The Kupuna Caregivers program potentially reduces costs to the state by delaying the time that a family may become eligible for medicaid. Studies have also shown that people who "age in place" - at home with family - are more likely to have better health outcomes, experience less age-related depression, and have reduced hospitalization and ER visits, which save families from paying for expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care and/or caregiver respite. In addition, the support services provided for through the Kupuna Caregivers program delays or eliminates long term institutionalization, which saves the state and/or caregiving families from paying for costly and preventable residential institutionalization, which also separates the elder from his or her family, in many cases, permanently.

This bill provides the needed \$2M in funding to help cover caregivers who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute to provide an average of up to \$350 per week (rather than \$70 per day) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services. This is critical to understand: A full-time participant in our Hilo Adult Day Care program pays an average of \$400 per week for day care tuition only. Additional services include feeding, bathing, transportation and medical administration.

The Hawaii State Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program, and many new caregivers and frail elders are benefitting from it, which lifts the entire community as a whole. We hope this year you will continue to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program and pass HB 467.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

*Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian*

Business Manager  
Hawaii Island Adult Care, Inc.  
561 Kupuna Place  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 961-3747

TO: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair –  
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair - Committee on  
Health

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2019

TIME: 9:15 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 329

**Re: HB 467, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

**Position: Support**

Dear Representatives San Buenaventura and Mizuno, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support HB 467 to continue funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program. The need for this program is demonstrated by those currently receiving services as well as the long waiting list of families who need the assistance. This bill provides additional flexibility for the program to get the services to those who in need.

As a physician, there are times when patients delay their own health care and needs because they are too busy taking care of their elders or family to come in for their own care. Working mothers put aside their own needs to care for their children and their parents.

As a caregiver for my parents, I experienced the emotional and physical stresses placed on families who are doing their best to provide the love and support our parents deserve. Please help us, the caregivers, by providing a little more support, so we can create and enjoy our final moments of joy with our loved ones.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Goto, M.D.

House Committee on Health  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
February 6, 2019  
Conference Room 329  
9:15 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR H.B. 467  
RELATING TO KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

SUBMITTED FROM:  
Lynn Wong, Director  
Live Well At Iwilei by Kāhala Nui

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of H.B. 467 Relating to Kūpuna Caregiver Program. My name is Lynn Wong, Director of Live Well at Iwilei. We are a licensed adult day care center located on the outskirts of downtown Honolulu in the Iwilei district. Live Well has 68 members whom many have caregivers who work nearby and rely on our services to care for their elders during the day.

Three of our families are currently in the Kūpuna Caregiver program and grateful for its assistance which enable them to continue working. One program recipient is a 68 year old male who has the Alzheimer disease, and retired on a modest fixed income. His wife is now the sole breadwinner as well as the primary caregiver since their only child lives on the mainland with her own young family. The spouse works full time as a housekeeper and pays their monthly rent, food and household expenses. The additional cost of her husband's care is an unexpected financial burden on their household income. The Kūpuna Caregiver program has been a god-send for this family which allows the caregiver to earn a living while her husband has the necessary care and supervision to remain healthy and safe at home. They don't have to rely on Medicaid to pay for his care, or be prematurely placed in a residential care or nursing home where they will be living apart.

This family situation is a common story shared by countless caregivers in Hawaii who are struggling to care for their elderly family members while supporting their own household. The Kūpuna Caregiver Program is one of the cost effective solutions that addresses and supports the needs of this aging population. Home and community based services are far less expensive than institutional long term care facilities which can cost up to \$14,000+ a month. Using adult day care and other in-home services help keep the family intact and respects the wishes of our kūpuna who want to remain at home as long as possible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 467.

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:23:56 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support HB467. We recognize the rising costs of caregiving and know that we need to help our families continue to care for their loved ones without losing benefits. We urge you to fund the Kupuna Caregivers Program, a necessary prevention program for the families of Hawaii.

**TO :** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS  
Rep Joy A San Buenaventura, Chair  
Rep. Nadine K Nakamura, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.  
Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

**SUBJECT:** HB 467 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

**HEARING:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:15 am  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB 467 which proposes to increase the funding of the Kupuna Caregivers Program to \$2 million per year in the coming biennium. The bill changes the allocation from \$70 a day to up to \$350 a week, allowing for more flexibility in providing services. This change is to help the County Area Agencies on Aging negotiate contracts with more vendors, which is important in expanding the program.

**THE NEED:**

The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the 2017 Legislative Session and is an important step in creating needed supports to family caregivers. In 2017, 17.8 per cent of Hawaii's population was sixty-five years or older with projections of an increase to 19.4 per cent by 2020 and 23 per cent by 2030,. The number of persons needing some assistance with everyday activities continues to increase. There are 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their parents, spouse, or other relatives who need extra care.

- Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce and their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families as well as to assure that they will have sufficient social security and savings to support themselves in retirement.
- Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

**THE KUPUNA CAREGIVER PROGRAM: Current Status**

Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family

member. The program offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services, up to 5 days a week. Elder persons needing assistance with at least 2 activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

Within a few weeks of when the program was launched, over 500 persons submitted an inquiry for the program. The program budget (\$600,000), however, limited the services to a relatively small number of clients. As of the end of December 2018, a total of 110 caregivers and 112 care recipients have been served by the program.

Legislators as well as persons in the community have expressed a strong desire to see this program expand the number of persons being served.

### **PROPOSED BILL HB 467**

Unfortunately, the current level of funding is woefully inadequate to serve the existing need. SB proposes to increase the funding to \$2 million per year, which will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers.

In addition, based on the experience of the initial months of the program, other changes are proposed in this bill and others before the Legislature to adjust the program to make it more effective and with broader reach. Increasing the number of providers serving the program is essential to being able to serve a larger number of clients. The proposal to change the benefit to up to \$350 per week rather than for up to \$70 for 5 days a week, is intended to increase the number of providers.

Since its passage, the Hawaii Kupuna Caregiver program has received much national attention in the media and many other states are now considering similar legislation. We believe this program is a very significant step in meeting the serious needs faced by families needing to provide long-term care for their frail members. We urge passage of this bill which would provide the needed resources to achieve this vision.

Thank you  
Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
In SUPPORT of HB 467 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program  
House Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and on Health  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:15 AM, conference room 329

---

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 467**, which would change the Kūpuna Caregivers Program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week as well as appropriate \$2 million per year for two fiscal years for implementation of the program.

According to a MetLife survey, the cost of home health aide and homemaker services are significantly higher in Hawai'i than the national average. Ninety percent of people over age 65 say they would prefer to remain stay in their homes as long as possible. Our extended 'ohana are often loving caregivers, but providing that care can often create financial and emotional stress.

When the caregiver is working full-time, adding care duties adds significant personal strain for the caregiver. As a result, many caregivers make the difficult decision to leave their job or reduce their work hours to care for an aging family member.

We commend you for creating the Kūpuna Caregivers Program, the first of its kind in the nation. This groundbreaking program is a crucial way to both provide a safety net for Hawai'i's family caregivers and invest in our paid care workforce.

It is essential that the program continue to be funded adequately in order to help many of our working families, who are in desperate need of the financial support that the program can provide.

Supporting home caregiving means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our seniors, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state.

Please pass HB 467. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

---

*The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*



# THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



February 4, 2019

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**Re: HB 467 – Appropriation for Kūpuna Caregivers Program**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:15 a.m., Room: 329

Position: Support with comments

The Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is in strong support of the Kupuna Caregivers Program that provides some minimal funding for family members who care for their elderly relatives. As the bill rightly notes, Hawaii's population is growing increasingly older, and more funding, properly used, is critical to serve this segment of the population.

However, we must express some concern about the change in the maximum amount of compensation, from the current figure of \$70 per day to \$350 per week. This is actually a reduction, because \$70 per day works out to \$490 per week; by contrast \$350 per week works out to only \$50 per day. Is this intentional?

We recognize that funding is limited. It certainly is necessary to place dollar limits on how much a given caregiver can receive, or how much can be spent on behalf of a given elder. However, these limitations should either be more clearly spelled out, or perhaps this matter should be entrusted to an agency for careful resolution after considering multiple points of view and alternative sources of funding that may be available to particular caregivers. At some point it will be necessary to establish a more comprehensive compensation scheme to ensure fairness and equity in parceling out the limited funds that are currently available.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Alan B. Burdick

Chair, Kūpuna Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawai‘i  
[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com)

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health



Wednesday, February 6, 2019

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM  
WITH AMENDMENTS**

My name is Pedro Haro, and I wish to testify on behalf of Caring Across Generations in strong support of House Bill 467.

We are proposing two friendly amendments to be placed into this bill:

SECTION 2. Section 349-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) The planning and administrative services division shall engage in the following activities, including but not limited to:

- (1) Preparation and submission of programs and budgets;
- (2) Preparation of an annual evaluation report on elder programs for the governor and legislature[;], which shall include a section detailing outcomes of the kupuna caregivers program, including but not limited to:
  - (A) Evaluation metrics;
  - (B) A cost breakdown and analysis of individuals served, by county and type of service received;
  - (C) Consolidated data of the existing waiting list broken down by county;  
and
  - (D) Recommendations to support the implementation and execution of the program;
- (3) Preparation of studies and analysis;
- (4) Maintenance of personnel records;
- (5) Management of contracts and agreements entered into by the executive office on aging with public and private vendors, consultants, and suppliers;
- (6) Monitoring the purchase of service agreements with public and private agencies and rendering technical assistance to elder program service providers;  
and
- (7) Establishment and maintenance of reimbursement systems for services provided by agreement with federal, state, and county agencies, as well as private groups."

SECTION 3. Section 349-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (b) to read as follows:

"(b) The program shall be coordinated and administered by the executive office on aging and implemented through the area agency on aging. The executive office on aging shall offer a plan to:

- (1) Maximize the number of participants served by the program; and
- (2) Offer the core services.

There is little disagreement that the lack of long-term care coverage is a critical issue facing our country. For the vast majority of families without private long term care insurance, the only choices available are to either spend down their life savings in order to qualify for Medicaid, or to rely on unpaid family caregivers. Neither choice is sustainable. In Hawai'i, the issue is even more devastating as our cost of home health care is on average \$10,000 more than on the continental U.S. To adequately meet the care needs of families, and of the direct care workforce, we need to support the caregiving infrastructure that the Kupuna Caregivers provides.

House Bill 880 will continue the funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program through appropriations of the Tobacco Settlement Funds and will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Study after study shows that the value of unpaid, and often under-recognized, family care is astronomical, and when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long term care. **Our own research showed that 1 in 5 people indicated that they or someone in the household has had to leave a job or the workforce to help care for an aging loved one.**

The benefit offered in this legislation will help ensure that aging adults in Hawaii will have access to the care they need, in a setting where they are already comfortable. And, importantly, family members in the workforce will be able to continue working, which improves their economic security and also stabilizes the workforce for business owners.

Care is a universal issue, and anyone in this room who is not currently providing some form of care to a family member has almost certainly done so in the past...or will do so in the future. Caring Across Generations urges this committee to support House Bill 467 and help ensure that all families have the support they need to provide the care our kūpuna deserve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Pedro Haro**  
**Advocacy Director, Hawaii**  
**Caring Across Generations**  
**pedro@caringacross.org**

The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Committee on Health

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019; 9:15 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 467  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 467, which would appropriate \$2 million for the Kupuna Caregivers Program in fiscal year 2019-2020 and changes the allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week.

The first of its kind in the nation, the Kupuna Caregivers Program was established in the 2017 legislative session with an appropriation of \$600,000 (increased to \$1.2 million in 2018) to be used to assist family caregivers with support services for their loved ones in order to allow caregivers to retain their own employment. While services are provided to the kupuna, the “client” effectively is the employed family caregiver, who needs assistance to remain in the workforce.

Although a range of services are available, adult day care has been determined the most cost-effective. For \$70 a day, kupuna needing care can receive services at an adult day care facility in the care of professional staff who provide meals and a safe and healthful environment but also facilitate opportunities for socialization and mental stimulation during the day while the caregiver is at work.

Too many caregivers, lacking financial resources for this type of respite care, have been forced to lose work hours and income or resign or retire far earlier than desired. In most, if not all, cases, fewer work hours or early retirement has resulted in financial sacrifice for the caregiver in the form of reduced income security in later years. Likewise, employers have suffered economic hardship when employees must take paid or unpaid leave to care for kupuna or must leave the workforce prematurely, requiring employers to hire and train replacement workers. With Hawaii’s unemployment rate among the lowest in the nation, employers cannot afford to lose qualified and experienced employees.

Institutionalization is a final resort but extremely costly. For those who qualify for Medicaid, the burden of the cost rests with taxpayers themselves. Half of Medicaid dollars comes from the federal government and the other half from the State. For those unable to qualify for Medicaid, the cost must be borne by the families themselves—at minimum, \$11,000 a month.

H.B. 467 calls for a modest increase in the yearly appropriation to \$2 million. Even with this increase, the number served will be small. The Executive Office on Aging has reported that, thus far, just a little more than 100 have been served statewide (with almost \$2 million) while the need is at least 10 times greater.

H.B. 467 will also allow for flexibility in payments to assist these frail and vulnerable elderly who need care. Instead of \$70 a day, the amount will be capped at \$350 a week.

Encouraging kupuna and caregivers to use funds for services other than day care, like chore and bathing services, home-delivered meals, and assisted transportation, will also allow appropriated funds to go farther. But needs clearly exceed the funds available.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program needs to be expanded to allow more kupuna and their caregivers to benefit from it. This will, of course, mean more funding must be appropriated, which the Legislature may not be inclined to do. But if a coordinated campaign is established to publicize the program, the Legislature will see the true demand for these services as well as the enormous scope of the problem.

Rather than serving only the few who are aware about the program—and who can fulfill paperwork requirements—the ADRCs, which field the calls for Kupuna Caregiver services, may find there are many more who need help for respite services to allow them to remain in the workforce. Data is needed for the Legislature to enact informed and appropriate legislation.

Another suggestion is to implement a means test to help prioritize those who will access these limited program funds and ensure that the caregivers who receive funding for services are the most needy. These “most needy” are likely to be those working at low-wage jobs who lack flexibility in their jobs to provide or pay for appropriate and needed kupuna care.

While amendments as we have suggested above may be needed, the ILWU urges passage of H.B. 467. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**LATE**

DATE: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TIME: 9:15 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

### HB 467 RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

To the Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness; and to the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Health:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT with amendments of HB 467 relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program.**

HB 467 provides that the kupuna care givers program shall award an allocation of funds, subject to the availability of funding and up to a maximum of [~~\$70 per day,~~ \$350 per week, to cover costs for the following services that would otherwise be performed by the qualified caregiver for the care recipient: (1) Adult day care; (2) Assisted transportation; (3) Chores; (4) Home-delivered meals; (5) Homemaker services; (6) Personal care; (7) Respite care; or (8) Transportation; provided that the allocated funds shall be issued directly to the service provider upon request and receipt of an invoice for services rendered.

HB 467 further provides for an appropriation out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

Hawai`i faces a long-term care crisis that prevents too many seniors and people with disabilities from being able to live with dignity at home or in their communities. The vast majority of people who are aging or living with a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support they need to do so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be better structured to support them. DPH will take steps to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that all these resources are readily available at home or in the community. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 12, ln. 44-50.*

The suggested amendment relates to the allocation of funds to the service provider. HB 467 provides for \$350 per week which is \$50 per day rather than \$490 per week which is the amount originally provided at \$70 per day. The amendment would be to provide for the original amount of \$70 per day rather than providing for the new amount of \$350 per week.

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give seniors access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that all these resources are readily available at home or in the community, OCCLP supports HB 467 with amendments and urges its passage with amendments out of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness and Committee on Health.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com





**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

*American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam & American  
Samoa) Section*

TO: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair – Committee on Health  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair – Committee on Health  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair – Committee on Human Services &  
Homelessness  
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair – Committee on Human Services &  
Homelessness

DATE: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 (9:15AM)  
PLACE: House Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Section, ACOG  
Dr. Chrystie Fujimoto, MD, FACOG, Chair  
Dr. Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Vice Chair  
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

**RE: HB467 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

In 2017, the Hawai'i State Legislature honored our tradition in Hawai'i of caring for our kūpuna by establishing the Kūpuna Caregivers Program. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists **supports HB467**, which would provide funding for the program and changes the program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. Our organization calls for access to quality health care appropriate to every woman's needs throughout her life and for assuring that a full array of clinical services be available to women without costly delays or the imposition of cultural, geographic, financial or legal barriers.<sup>1</sup>

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i.<sup>2</sup> Many of our diverse cultures in Hawai'i honor our elders who wish to age at home, but the burden on caregivers can be significant and can include financial and emotional stress. Much of that burden disproportionately falls on women. According to AARP, the average caregiver is a 62-year old married woman who cares for an elderly parent or husband while still working. Working women may neglect their own health while caring for their children and their parents. Many women may leave the workforce altogether, which can affect their insurance and access to health care.

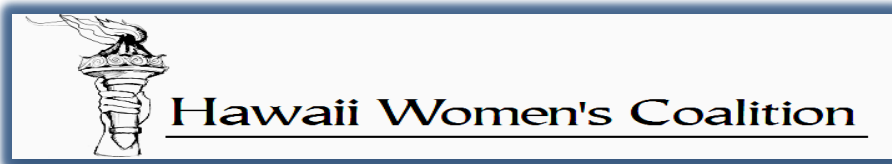
HB467 enables this critical program to continue so that caregivers do not have to choose between caring for a loved one and stable employment and healthcare access. HI ACOG is committed to both facilitating access to and supporting high quality women's health care, including for caregivers and our kūpuna.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

---

<sup>1</sup> The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Access to Women's Health Care, Statement of Policy, Reaffirmed July 2016

<sup>2</sup> Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2040.



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TIME: 9:15 am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

**Strong Support for HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM funding**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and members,

The Coalition is in strong support of this measure. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

This is very much a women's issue as over 57% of caregivers in Hawaii are women, many of whom are working and must keep their jobs in order for their families to survive. The need is urgent for women and their family members, including elders, since the predicted aging tsunami is upon us.

The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap groups not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare with the costs. Too many of these are barely making it, and risk losing their jobs or having to reduce hours because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the earning power of the caregivers, including their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer to poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

House  
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness &  
Committee on Health  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
9:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 329



To: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair; Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
RE: Strong Support for HB467, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Aloha Chairs Buenaventura and Mizuno and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jessica Wooley and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership-based organization of people age fifty and over with about 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care, access to affordable, quality health care for all generations and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports HB467, to fully fund Hawaii's Kupuna Caregivers program for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same for 2020-2021, to help Hawaii's working caregivers stay in the workforce. This is a landmark program that in particular is helping women struggling to keep their jobs while caring for loved ones, providing significant benefits to the community in these tough times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB467.

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 4:37:34 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**Testimony of Ellen Godbey Carson  
In SUPPORT OF HB467**

To the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
February 1, 2019 at 9:30am, Conference Room 229

I write in SUPPORT of this bill, to assist Hawaii's caregivers for our Kupuna. Many of our Kupuna need of long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care and they prefer to remain in their own homes.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because their employment is necessary to support their families and to assure that they will have enough to support themselves in retirement. Many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work, and many must limit their work hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

In 2017, Hawaii created the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which helps family caregivers who work at jobs outside the home by providing a \$70/day benefit in services to care for disabled elderly people. These services include adult day care, chore services, personal care, respite care, and transportation. The goal of Kupuna Caregivers is twofold: to support families in Hawaii in their desire to care for their loved ones, and to do it in an innovative, systematic manner that saves the State money in the long run. Without Kupuna Caregivers, the disabled elderly may have to be institutionalized, and the average cost of nursing home care in Hawaii exceeds \$130,000 per year. As a result, many nursing home residents deplete their savings and qualify for Medicaid, which is a State program.

The Kupuna Caregivers program has proven to be effective. However, the need is much greater than the current funding. I urge the committee to pass the bill, to help support this vital program that allows our Kupuna to be cared for in their own homes.

Ellen Godbey Carson  
1080 S. Beretania St.,  
Honolulu, Hawaii.

re: HB 467 Relating to Kupuna Care February 6, 2019 9:15 a.m.

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Kobayashi and Nakamura and committee members.

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans and the Legislative Committee of PABEA.

I'm testifying in strong support of HB 467 which would appropriate \$2M to the Kupuna Caregiver program and amend the allowance from \$70 per day to \$350 per week, which would give this Executive Office on Aging the flexibility to contract for necessary services. This program assists family caregivers to obtain services for their elderly loved ones, while remaining in the workforce and contributing to their own retirement and Social Security, so that they, the caregivers, do not end up retiring into poverty. The program has been successful so far and EOA, through the Area Agencies on Aging, has shown that the need continues to grow as Hawaii's elderly population continues to grow.

Please help caregivers to meet the needs of their own families and careers and their desire to keep their elderly loved ones at home, out of costly nursing home care

Please support HB 467 to provide \$2M for Kupuna Caregivers and amend the allowance from \$70 per day to \$350 per week.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service, MSW (Retired)

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:36:04 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge the committee to pass this bill to aid our caregivers

Sincerely,

Ann Renick

**Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Avery Fukunaga and I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 467**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Avery Fukunaga (Mother lives in Hawaii)  
2734 Bruchez Parkway #105  
Westminster, CO 80234**



## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** CArl Takamura <ctakamura@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:01 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is CArl Takamura, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

CArl Takamura  
ctakamura@aol.com

6770 Hawaii Kai Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPOYSiu-2Fls6mQsF0FztUtCtq2nVgHJMSosQa0sl-2F0B8Q-2B2vN1dAahqhj7-2FA0xqbMwybKUN0sQBh742g3GeaDHClmqQxkGJcjtBdzyojbsAWw97zN1CD6xxtQoDqjJ49xotJPEBIYBrosS6imn3zmjd6h6OTKoyMch4rfmJCfFXJyuMF0qg-2Fdvzq-2BgHTsyE2HhEBQR8Di51dJgzh809oG1l1gozza8VEndXqNwObIJgVVJnSxUqQvwxFEh-2B4ALCNvLcykNsRn526p3OGk7cMkVy9DDwtb-2Bb3LZuuOt3fm1hBKLqjyC3gwOSpipY6I80XvcAwUOI7D-2BO3eYFzd7Es-2Fq8C1DvT2d1MRWvF1eCl1EH-2F2j5Nhi1kDZqFdBid-2BeKLXYL>>

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Charlotte Charfen <charlottecharfen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:08 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Dr. Charlotte Charfen and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. As an emergency physician that practices in this great state, I often witness the tragedies of those trying to care for their loved ones and maintain an income.

This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Charfen, MD  
Charlottecharfen@gmail.com  
Hawi, Hi

**Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Haley Fukunaga and I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 467**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Haley Fukunaga (Grandmother lives in Hawaii)  
2734 Bruchez Parkway #105  
Westminster, CO 80234**

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Jun Shin <junshinbusiness729@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:25 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jun Shin, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jun Shin  
junshinbusiness729@gmail.com  
1561 Kanunu Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
United States

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Kathleen Lech <kathiegriffeth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:30 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kathleen Lech, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Lech  
kathiegriffeth@gmail.com  
92-8264 Bamboo Lane  
Captain Cook, HI 96704  
United States

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Kimberly Calverase <mskcalorg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:54 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kimberly Calverase, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Calverase  
mskcalorg@gmail.com  
92-8559 Trade Wind Boulevard  
Ocean View, HI 96704  
United States

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Paul Calverase <mrcal4145@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:56 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Paul Calverase, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Paul Calverase  
mrcal4145@gmail.com  
92-8510 Trade Wind Boulevard  
Ocean View, HI 96704  
United States

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Roy Eaton <springshire@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:21 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Roy Eaton, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

My wife has cancer, and needs care throughout the day. I am 68 and have troubles with my health as well. Constant caring for her keeps me from doing many things that need to be done around the house. Even leaving for doctors appointments for myself is not really doable. I start her care early and work to get as much done throughout the day as possible. Much is not possible. Trips to town must be made quickly so shopping is never thorough. Taking time for state human services is often impossible. I used to love trips to beaches but haven't been in years. I've lost over 50 lbs. because she gets the biggest portions to attempt some healing. I have no living family to help and most people shun cancer stricken people. Every day I see I can only do less and soon I worry I won't be there when needed. I was an active community kupuna, now I am hidden behind our front door caring, working more than I should, but there is no choice. So I ask you, people in our government, do not abandon the elderly. For everyone who writes to you there are many more who can't. The problem is bigger than anyone realizes. Please stand for something that truly matters, help our elderly infirmed.....please,.. please.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Roy Eaton  
springshire@gmail.com  
Po box 377379  
Ocean View,, HI 96737  
United States

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Scott Foster <scottfoster.foster5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 2, 2019 6:39 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Scott Foster, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Scott Foster  
scottfoster.foster5@gmail.com  
1510 9th Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816-2802  
United States

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Yuya Matsuoka <sakurahousehonolulu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Yuya Matsuoka, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Yuya Matsuoka, Program Director  
sakurahousehonolulu@gmail.com  
1666 Mott Smith Drive,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:25:56 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Concetta DiLeo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017 and is an important step in creating needed supports to family caregivers. By 2020, nearly 300,000 people in Hawaii will be 65 years of age or older, and the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities continues to increase.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce and their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families as well as to assure that they will have sufficient Social Security benefits and savings to support themselves in retirement.

Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family member. The program offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services, up to \$70 per day for 5 days a week. Elder persons needing assistance with at least 2 activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

Within a few weeks of the launch of the program, more than 500 persons inquired about it. The program's relatively small budget, however, limited the services to a relatively small number of clients. The current level of funding, unfortunately, is still woefully inadequate to serve the existing need. Legislators, as well as persons in the

community, have expressed a strong desire to expand the number of persons being served. The proposed increase to \$2 million per year will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers.

I support the bill and urge the committee to pass it.

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Rachel Agustin <ragustin@palolohome.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 10:45 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Rachel Agustin from Palolo Chinese Home, Senior Day Care Program, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Rachel Agustin  
ragustin@palolohome.org

2459 10th Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPIRpXKJ2Ewrsp-2B0maYh6FC384tkiKY5QdaRT-2FKyE5ZaxkQrcJPzdUTypLjITAKdwWn6VcC81GORzAMy1NW1AKCqXxFUD44-2BeZ64VxS-2BWL-2F4F1skaVLHtjY12iL-2FU1o8H-2FWchXYefmjJe4DE-2BtJBMZ-2F-2FWV9cXLpt4QcsdBYjppVSqVUqy6RcklyhKy2CwUYo0nyAGEC3ZA-2FvTqvpGhCjg5n1BDkh2eNNtEfeSqmSalIX59T8mK382oUQHubeKfhw5sRBeVoYSNXQLsUq-2FKMrVXd7DFWil3YWY7N73JsdsMzAZ7RQC12UBBq7iwPoYn7WNxGC-2B9nfvS0kOvd5y-2Fhlatp7PtjTHF-2Bxby7uKar-2FM2Tr5I2mLZFZde-2FC1so2WgWli>>

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Jonathan Boyne <boyne@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 1:25 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jonathan Boyne, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Boyne  
boyne@hawaii.edu

2013 Kakela Dr  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIP0k8xAFnzVPgafOs9dgGTvxlrjdnVSZ-2FqEZIG63tRR-2FIAzY8gUK2g5Cggzps-2F4-2BU35uuFfCGHYrL5aKCCvOVbjeG2lc2RazfnUqDWOTPufpvpT44egSqwu1dt6aseDunQdgSKHpXnW35wdyXENG-2FvGyGg001baW-2Fn2GsvR6JVfHO2wyVWz-2Fu7JehSalvoMQqLk98jMWUySr9PJ1zEhq8LNd0bk-2Bs7eoLO-2BfVp57lrng-2BSaylvFHaANiyeXGcRDFrIPG9ftULa-2B50e-2FQw-2B-2FQcm5wiq1uxhcaDAa7X72VBpdMpdwaR4lj4Y8rZjKu5Un0KFeEuoxlHWyoiil8PQ7HUSSPAdsaZx9A8Is4qyWQIDPp9glXD6dNck1uJ-2F5RxJemAc>>

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:16:29 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Cisler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A much more sensible way to access services!

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:59:50 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nako'olani Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I am in strong support of HB 467. Mahalo!**

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Dorri Goodrich <dkgood415@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 2:57 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is [Dorri Goodrich, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

[your name will go here]  
dkgood415@gmail.com

15-1454 30th Avenue  
Keaau, HI 96749  
United States

<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPhHHomOMn-2F1TjkasmTctavuP-2B0Ft-2BI-2BkmfJ2OzfJPKdXdRju1Qq9YPPpjmslx-2FuntBtQ-2BuOKM9bOupdg7Wt2BjjldviPSYstvjpwVVLVnyUJp42XrlGaCUgmDSN6-2FMa3vXrBPmcQcJYTUYW8kgbYYgc69vBuSj56DOhiB0NawWPOQ1b7ux8tSAOBsluB-2BTbhCMXSd67kexax4r4WVx62g9PUyWjjYINdseE1nGAEXTxHcVAqFnZ-2BpPg-2Fx2k9I6E3kb2gDEi9zcGY5W-2Bh6F-2FuWiGY-2FLvAbL1-2BW53wGThs4PfSk2z-2FWWj9138JCbRaWyz6vBjOZr3L0jCHYMpeBPPjHppq80Ih0IUP3iuM0v4zoE9aXaQJfOqa71NlvGIJWJ3N1KK>

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Peter Oh- Gmail <peseoh5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 2:51 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

January 30, 2019

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to you in regards to Senate Bill 1025 relating to Kapuna Caregiver Program that help family caregivers who work at least 30 hours/week outside the home by providing a \$70/day benefit in services that make caring for aging family members who are 60 and over more affordable and accessible. It can help pay for things like

- Home health care workers
- Extra help preparing meals
- Adult day care costs
- Transportation

My elderly mother and father are 89 years of age. They emigrated from Korea to Hawaii in 1976. At their younger years, they were hardworking and healthy. Now my father and mother are very frail with many medical conditions. Especially my mother whose health has deteriorated over the years hindering her from an active lifestyle. Now, she is house-ridden and requires constant reliance on her daughter for trips to the supermarket, church, doctor's office, etc.

Few days ago, my sister who is a primary caregiver was terminated from her employment because she missed too many days of work due taking time off work to care for my mother. The employer felt that she was "unreliable" and missed too many days of work.

Today, I spoke to a Kapuna Caregiver Program representative and was informed there is a long wait list due to limited funding and great public demand for caregiver assistance.

In Hawaii, I am certain there are many that are in the same circumstances as my sister. I urge you to improve and expand the Kapuna Caregiver program perhaps increasing the funding or resources so that people like my sister can work and care for their elderly parents.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Regards,  
Peter Oh  
801 Ala Nioi Place  
Honolulu, HI 96818



## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Troy Siruno <tsiruno@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 3:16 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Troy Siruno, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Troy Siruno  
tsiruno@gmail.com

4300 Waialae Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPBVUV4v4AGTrIo65OQjeSOar2H7s9sCqec8CXBY7YsR51siyZoP2Lmall1epq8WhOGYPQ2q3i8JH-2BEF9clJhVziXI2AIsBC2IBvQUioDzB79SHT-2F4LxhdbCewDgx1AfLDkz3HhFaZ-2B6YRQuN5M1-2Fu-2FIMpVQPuccqROKN41OvjXS8vSw-2BvRn4OJZvM6YyAXVcsYfhGITdpi0AfO-2FHBi8wjDYCblThuxnzKEUlKDoAU8njBtnZoOZtqgRDouKf-2Ftx7XQZcJ6L4Yc-2FK4542LzziidF20-2BY8DDe0SOaxOX-2Bf5gvk53EWlotDBPCP6rbVAKyMriU8XYZBF-2Bn-2B-2BYe8O5zOPYc-2Fs62KWdYF-2BFFnHkldCVMsUFMxxlqQ-2FT5t4LM2kFVR-2F>>

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:21:09 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB467 and urge you to pass this bill. We need funding for our Kupuna Caregivers program, as it is an important prevention program to help families within Hawaii while careing for loved ones.

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467 FOR HSH/HLT HEARING ON FEBRUARY 6, 2019@ 9:15  
A.M., ROOM 329**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Alison Hayama, and I am writing to express my support for HB 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

I am writing to you, as a caregiver for my mom who suffers from dementia at the age of 96. While I go to work 35 or more hours a week, I depend on Maluhia Adult Day Health Center to care for my mom. My goal is to keep my mom at home as long as possible so she can live a quality life till the end. Since she doesn't qualify for Medicaid, the Kupuna Caregivers Program has given tremendous support to me financially and emotionally. Now I can sleep at night and continue to care for my mom at home, allowing me to focus on caregiving and not how I was going to pay for daycare.

Please support **HB 467** so I can continue to give quality care for my mom while keeping my full-time job.

Sincerely,

Alison Hayama  
45-656 Apapane Street  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:11:58 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Esther Ueda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support House Bill 467 which provides support for family caregivers. I've been delivering meals to seniors for over 15 years. So many seniors are trying to stay at home(aging in place) -- long term care and other services are very expensive. Family members are doing the best they can to assist them, but they also need to work. This proposal will greatly assist these family caregivers and provide more support services for them.

Thank you.

Esther Ueda(Pearl City)

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:06 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Amelia Jodar, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ameli G. Jodar  
ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com  
87-238 Hakimo Road, Waianae, HI 96792

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Deanna Espinas <espihawaii@juno.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:41 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program. Please continue to show your commitment to this issue, as we all begin to face the challenges of providing caregiving to our loved ones.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Deanna Espinas  
espihawaii@juno.com  
Honolulu, HI 96816



## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Francis Rickard <francisr@castleresorts.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:12 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Francis Rickard, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Francis Rickard  
francisr@castleresorts.com  
P.O. Box 1015  
Hilo, HI 96721  
United States

1050 Lunalilo St., #806  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Feb. 4, 2019

**Chair Joy San Buenaventura**  
**Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura**  
**House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Chair John Mizuno**  
**Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi**  
**House Committee on Health**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 467**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

I work for an agency that provides support services to the frail elderly but I have also been a caregiver for both my parents and my in-laws. I understand the pressures of trying to keep family members at home, as well as working a full-time job.

Professional caregiving costs are rising and some families are unable to afford the costs of someone else to take care of their loved ones and remain fully employed. Because some families just do not have enough money for these services, they have taken the option of crossing their fingers and hoping everything goes well at home with their parent(s) while they go to their much needed job to earn money to support their own family – not a good option at all, but they have no choice.

Kupuna Care has helped the group who are not eligible for VA, Medicaid or other services with the costs. This way, caregivers can continue to be fully employed and have a way for their loved one to get the care their need and be safe in their home. This program is a plus for both the caregiver, as well as their family member, and helps lessen the chance of this family be in crisis mode. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our State the cost of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still on the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue this needed program.

Sincerely,  
Jeri Takamiya

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Juanita Colon <anita3396@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 6:09 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My Name is Juanita R. Colon,

I won't be there but I am 85 years old and I work for many years in the State and other establishments. I can't do all things I use to do. I do appreciate if you count into consideration that Seniors in Hawaii need the support of the Government 100 %. With the Government support we can enjoy life till the blessed day when the Lord calls us to eternal rest. SB 1025 give it the green light for Kupuna Caregivers!

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Sincerely,  
Juanita Colon  
anita3396@aol.com

Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2EIZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPQczh7PZY3OFHy8q-2B5fw7CUc5bwq7f-2F4LkmCO-2FavPOu9MKmMPZKsc8t-2FDvgwPX5drqRfNu4XaZBz4rWxLrWJlpvwmDnsCCO-2FcYA9OHR0UK8W-2FzYhxO-2BKpV-2FqGcC1qMG-2FfFc2i0ayvVS1-2B2xFXDch5hNqI3rRNH-2FT86EBiOI7MfytM4tStVLAbjuT0JC5lxnhHcN705ZJX8w5CDDeaXF7EI9NiESdOj6h8a17Hpsl-2FfgdvPWWulzdL3Bxnx5NXiOXv-2FCftjcG3iHT7ZdBsuBJgdWZuzv6JMBNlr39LeiTTcijjLd-2FgaYQdiDFUtEpuavtONzDcWk8qpvsG45xLO6xH9NrAy968bbZYW4ZKcDacyD01G5Wm7Ad9S9w1J9tAMGGD>>

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Merrill Adachi <merril92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:49 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Merrill Adachi and I am writing because I support House Bill 467. This funding is critical because it enables families to continue quality care for the kupuna—such as sending them to adult day care during work hours and purchasing all the necessities that they need at home, despite the rising cost to live here. The kupuna deserve quality care because of all the sacrifices and hard work they have contributed to our community. Please continue supporting the kupuna through this funding and their families who want to take care of them.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Merril Adachi  
45-656 Apapane Street  
[Kaneohe, Hawaii 96745](#)

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** R B <porthosjump@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 6:01 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is R B, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

R B  
porthosjump@gmail.com

154 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcV6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPJzBLPgPxtPScpZFcA2dT82Z477JsNY1Cyg4BvW9-2Bi9WAAVixcBmKI2nn3F8EqrK55mHpxuhwvr1Ciuo3enNKKOKJSfXb1o00rhxZazhsoa-2BwcZrhoV1VdiTbZuPqz3M3DeOU4OFR3DljzOQSyvq2J9hgUyGMM-2FuBC3w0lu4d7GNsThNZ4ji6AQk9zT9AgdQyW85q0rmpujzZV9z2kkbW6YXp8yG0-2BgdZgcfyO5mg9BoiQJ5m6SBwqpmvkcOe1D1WQSeNMGS9MYHIY-2BzOw9hq4Zj-2BpJHZPxOLwgcaqqpLo8V310BjB3IE7YEgC7srYvCyU0o9VqjV0LXvuBw2E1-2BjmUj5SaaByaxDyTx0bv9v9fG-2BTtxA6Rosx3bdZUYBaBAD>>

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Richard Goldman <rsgold@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 4:56 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Richard Goldman, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Richard Goldman  
rsgold@gmail.com

67-1220 Halalena Place  
Kamuela, HI 96743  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPw2DSqPOIOoiYMyZGbGSLXvWd9qaMxIPUAzYrULLBr46EtHXNz4qTabo6yks6q2uAiCOSgKljDegleL97-2B96rEXDRbxbBO75t9bPLqbv93knd-2FcsmbFB-2FT-2B71EXairlomyIt93P-2FNYvV0qNZHsAnywnS7TgAMs0xxsU35-2BtrKhtYWf40DCoJ2Poo8S7gZMnb53OB0MjnvSAIAyxFK4jQ1yB3-2FGcvLvkk-2FDG1tLvulofJngTDuJ3ya5GaX4jzO1BNmsKIA1fXtEoAEBwyyh22UxMr6TQeb0wywMDiyFc6mMdJKSMb9v0mgMd-2FCDnuiL6z3ax8xvKzUshhcZD-2F5YH-2BxMW-2FPLMDOOt9pkkBSsgH0G-2Fp89VyeKBu3c6dSgBU96MoK>>

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Wade Hayama <whayama@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 6:12 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Wade Hayama, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Wade Hayama  
45-656 Apapane Street  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96745

**From:** marissa.triple2@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:58 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 467 for the HSH/HLT hearing on February 6, 2019 at 9:15 A.M., Room 329.

Chair Rosalyn Baker  
Vice Chair Stanley Chang  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Monday, February 5, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marissa Adachi, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

It's obvious that the need is real and present. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the Kupuna Caregivers Program first launched. Families called because so many across the state are faced with the reality that the cost of professional caregiving continues to rise. Our families, like my mom, simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not otherwise eligible for support from Medicaid or Medicare. These are the folks who are still barely making it and at times, they are at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because of the responsibilities that come with caregiving at home. The stress from caregiving for our kupuna reduces the income earning power of these selfless caregivers and in turn, their social security benefits. Other challenges they face include risking their eligibility for insurance coverage if they aren't able to work. In the end, the continued financial strain is placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping our families before crisis strikes. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people who are able to age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits. In the end, better health outcomes protects our state from expensive medical procedures that would have otherwise been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the \$2 million in funding that is so desperately needed. Not only will it help cover the families who are still on the waiting list, it will also change the statute for the better. Instead of providing \$70 per day in services, families would be provided an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day, for 5 days a week). Big picture: the Executive Office on Aging will be able to negotiate more freely with vendors and provide the caregiving families of Hawaii with more services and the financial help they need.

Each year, the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope that this year, you will once again step up and continue helping families across the state, so they may remain employed while caring for our aging loved ones.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marissa Adachi  
45-159 Kokokahi Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Laura Boehm <boehmlb@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Laura Boehm, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Boehm  
boehmlb@hawaii.edu  
92-112 Puliko Place  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
United States

Testimony Supporting HB467  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
February 6, 2019 at 9:15 in Conference Room 329

Aloha:

My name is Rev. David Baumgart Turner, and I am the pastor of Church of the Crossroads, Hawaii's first intentional multi-ethnic congregation, founded in 1923. I testify in support of HB467 for the following reasons:

Hawaii's elder population continues to grow faster than younger populations. Many of the elderly are or will be in need of long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care but, more importantly, they prefer to remain in their own homes.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because their employment is necessary to support their families and to assure that they will have enough to support themselves in retirement.

There are an estimated 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii, with the average caregiver being a 62-year-old married woman who cares for an elderly parent or husband while still working. Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work, and many must limit their work hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

In 2017, Hawaii created the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which helps family caregivers who work at jobs outside the home by providing a \$70/day benefit in services to care for disabled elderly people. These services include adult day care, chore services, personal care, respite care, and transportation.

The goal of Kupuna Caregivers is twofold: to support families in Hawaii in their desire to care for their loved ones, and to do it in an innovative, systematic manner that saves the State money in the long run. Without Kupuna Caregivers, the disabled elderly may have to be institutionalized, and the average cost of nursing home care in Hawaii exceeds \$130,000 per year. As a result, many nursing home residents deplete their savings and qualify for Medicaid, which is a State program.

The Kupuna Caregivers program has proven to be effective. However, the need is much greater than the current funding. I urge the committee to pass the bill.



## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** "Clementina Ceria-Ulep" <clem@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:43 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people who age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state from expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep  
clem@hawaii.edu

211 Hoomalu Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Judy AH CHIN <buffy\_papaikou@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 3:46 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Judy AH CHIN, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Judy AH CHIN  
buffy\_papaikou@yahoo.com

27-337 Kaieie Rd  
Papaikou, HI 96781  
United States

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcv6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNsMC3zIPYoJ Rm-2FvAM-2BiLxDkZAw8ChIs7bD4D30577CccYU4wr6oZtitKDFOHClIAYw23SUI5yyoxsddMOIy4XwAZxYSJqMRQTgJSbkrdrvbh0Ot7Fe9Blxhklm6rRdlv1-2BV-2B1CE-2BxkQI8CK1F73Npo7Cmbr002LFXkMdzlTBUbUVGomFifdyXXwTJmM4Aiy6yX-2FtqPwbxR091mwznUfcqRkKynMAoCClpiGfRevI4s0mpl7ff2c16eZbk9XPqDWwv6yXAlmbrD-2Bh446JwyRTbGG-2F1NQTNGVCYL-2BzlrSk6Lpackdt1EQDHzcg4MKQBJF1y5LhvtMrX-2BTHKsS5pOMMBojRmEulU8KgI6xHU-2FE9MsWiqyXMxQMMXIA2SFMzP6-2BbLqSAPWD1>>

**LATE**

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

**To:** Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Committee on Human Resources &  
Homelessness  
Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Committee on Health

**RE:** HB 467 Relating to The Kupuna Caregivers Program

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee  
Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of HB 467 relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program so our seniors in need can receive basic care. My name is Anna Filler and I retired four years ago at the age of 75. I urge the Legislature to pass HB 467 and to help working caregivers to keep working while assisting the needs of their loved ones in need of care. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program

**The Kupuna Caregivers Program** is a cost effective way for caregivers to continue to work and prevent the majority of seniors from being placed in a nursing home and allows them to age in place at home with their loved ones.

I urge the Legislature to pass HB 467 to fund and expand, not restrict, access to Kupuna Caregiving for Hawaii's growing senior population.

Thank you very much for your consideration in support of SB 467

Anna Filler  
Email: [afiller@twc.com](mailto:afiller@twc.com)  
Kakaako/Senate District 12

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:43:33 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kianna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

From: Kianna Akazawa

Submitted on: February 5, 2019

Testimony in opposition of HB467, relating to The Kupuna Caregivers Program  
Submitted to HSH/HLT on Wednesday, 2/6/19 at 9:15 AM in House Conference Room  
329

Aloha members of the committee,

I oppose HB467. As a candidate of the Myron B. Thompson Masters of Social Work Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa concentrating in gerontology I do not believe that the change of \$70/day to \$350/week is a sufficient amount. Since my experience with the elderly population I have come across many with financial struggles that need the care but are not able to access any of it. It is frustrating to know that we are not able to help our seniors with services now, knowing that the elderly population will only increase in the future. I purpose that we keep the Kupuna Caregiver Program at \$70/day in order to fully help those in need.

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:29:46 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valerie Chun-Urma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the Kupuna Caregivers bill because it will help caregivers stay in the workforce. I retired two years early to help take care of my Dad. I was old enough to retire, but took a penalty because I had only 28 years of service. My Dad would not have wanted to go to a senior program; it would have taken too long for him to get ready and to be transported. We could have used help in getting him out of bed, getting washed and dressed, and getting to his chair. If someone could have helped him in the morning, I would have been able to keep working. Although my Dad has passed, I am thinking about my younger cousins and friends who are or will be faced with a similar situation.

Thank you for considering my input.

## **nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Darlene Rodrigues <darlene.rodrigues@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:30 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness



Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Darlene Rodrigues, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Darlene Rodrigues  
darlene.rodrigues@gmail.com  
94-338 Ulukoa St.  
Mililani, HI 96789  
United States

**HB-467**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:57:01 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 9:15:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Stone-Walls	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

## nakamura1 - Nichol

---

**From:** Sylvia Ching <sching35@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:31 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 467; Hearing on 2/6/19 9:15A, Rm 329

Chair Joy San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
House Committee on Health



Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is [Sylvia Ching], and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 467, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

By now we know that the need is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Ching

Sching35 @gmail.com

Honolulu

<<http://feedback.advocacysender.com/wf/open?upn=YI-2FkpDcva6fyxOTs2NuwAMTIPr-2B1wsHAeY-2FKa5uz3pO2W6f7LXSgSdR9n2ElZGBJyueifKwwDz2p9GRORy3XuSKNJONoijdXgabIRMcV6OZKEai2PKllmoOZNSMC3zIPmjG C7k3JeDMwOPOUTATf-2BxYdLQvzSDiCmValU9BiNcp-2FNFGPaplylR9eyEq-2BxbYv65I0ig3zIUUijPu-2FFwvpO7Szcla-2BOIm9NfwimklvxwsCsF0hCt1KtEp3mZnfnluL9CGtBlzqe7NApYRFpnrouTgxWoj3Ulu333AQ4LsBzr-2FyS5D4T0EHklswOeSAZu1CJ09Yg2eI2bsrvFtjUncVcrQjiitG90gGBoe7WHnDQiX-2FKmedBLOZ7tXPNM4DFQRhf8Gf3TtPkK-2Bg-2BczLEvCJJulvnf5ZU88JmGCKG4-2B0IQxzlW8vRp7dID6P2Pqh9rj4GuF26dRIDGmJBUXW7eaQPciafEczrwQcFnNvOThfX36ERRuJ5jg5PDulYtOCIXk>>